

time for the following reasons. The names *inornata*, *plumbescens*, and *poensis* have been current for many years and they usefully designate certain geographical populations of *larvata*. Further, *principalis* of Principe Island, a very distinct race is geographically interposed between *simplex* and the other West African populations. And finally the conclusions reached regarding the similarity of *simplex*, *inornata*, *plumbescens*, and *poensis* must remain tentative till such time as adequate accurately sexed adult female material is available for study.

A New Race of the Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* (Müller) from East Africa

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Chapin, *Birds of the Belgian Congo*, part iv, 1954, p.360, records that three topotypical specimens of *Ploceus cucullatus nigriceps* (Layard), 1867: Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, from Rhodesia are "distinctly duller, lighter yellow, than most East African examples." A series of ten adult breeding males of what is currently believed to be *P.c.nigriceps* collected by myself in the coastal area of Kenya Colony to the north of Mombasa in April, 1958, confirms Chapin's observation, showing clearly that East African birds are much richer and deeper coloured throughout than the topotypical populations. I consider it advisable to split the present race *P.c.nigriceps* into two, and for the new East African representative a name appears to be needed:

Ploceus cucullatus paroptus, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Sokoke Village, Sokoke Forest, inland from Kilifi, coastal Kenya Colony. Altitude about 400 ft. a.s.l. Breeding. Collected by P. A. Clancey. 19th April, 1958. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

Diagnosis: ♂ ad. Differs from *P.c.nigriceps* (Layard) of southern Africa on account of the deeper yellow of the upper-parts (about Lemon Chrome, Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. iv, as against Lemon Yellow (same pl.)). On under-parts more saliently different, being an intensely brilliant Lemon Chrome with an overlay of Cadmium Yellow (pl. iii) this being especially marked on the sides of the lower throat and breast. In *P.c.nigriceps* the yellow ventral surfaces are nearer Lemon Yellow with an overlay of Light Cadmium (pl. iv) restricted to the sides of the lower throat. Wings rather blacker, and with broad, sharply defined Lemon Chrome fringes to the secondary-coverts and tertials, as against yellowish white, poorly defined fringes in *P.c.nigriceps*. Tail more golden, less greyish, olive. Similar in size.

Paratypical material: 11 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 87.5, culmen (exposed) 22, tarsus 26, tail 51.5 mm.

Range: Not accurately and completely known. Ranges from the valley of the Juba River, southern Somalia, and Kenya Colony to Tanganyika Territory, northern Portuguese East Africa and Nyasaland. In the west to Lake Tanganyika, the Katanga, southern Belgian Congo, and, perhaps, parts of Northern Rhodesia Intergrading populations *P.c.paroptus* \cong *P.c.nigriceps* are known from the Chiromo and Port Herald districts of

southern Nyasaland, and Chapin, *loc.cit.*, records intergrades *P.c.paroptyus* \cong *P.c.graueri* from Moba and Tembwe, on Lake Tanganyika. On the western periphery of its range in Kenya Colony it presumably intergrades with *P.c.feminina*.

Remarks: Females of *P.c.paroptyus* show little marked difference in colour, being slightly more washed with olive on the mantle and with the lower throat rather deeper yellow. The wings of the paratypical series of 11 ♂♂ of *P.c.paroptyus* measure 84–89 (86.4) mm. One or two males of *P.c.paroptyus* adumbrate the head characters of *P.c.cucullatus*, *P.c.frobenii*, etc., in having an extension of yellow from the neck onto the sides of the crown. Some skins of *P.c.nigriceps* also reveal a similar deviationary trend in that race.

P.c.nigriceps has the pale yellow body-colouration of the recently described *P.c.dilutescens* Clancey, 1956: Palmeira, Manhiça, Sul do Save, southern Portuguese East Africa, from which it differs only in having the head-top black, like the face and throat. *P.c.nigriceps* also resembles *P.c.dilutescens* and *P.c.spilonotus* Vigors, 1831: Algoa Bay, eastern Cape Province, South Africa, in having the secondary-coverts and tertials with less sharply defined and paler fringes than in *P.c.paroptyus* and the central and western African representatives. There seems to be no doubt whatsoever that *P.spilonotus* (with the race *P.s.dilutescens*), *P.nigriceps*, *P.collaris*, and the various subspecies of the *P.cucullatus* complex are all conspecific. The valid races of the enlarged species, *P.cucullatus*, are as follows:

- Ploceus cucullatus cucullatus* (Müller), 1776
- Ploceus cucullatus frobenii* Reichenow, 1923
- Ploceus cucullatus bohndorffi* Reichenow, 1887
- Ploceus cucullatus abyssinicus* (Gmelin), 1789
- Ploceus cucullatus feminina* (Ogilvie-Grant), 1907
- Ploceus cucullatus graueri* Hartert, 1911
- Ploceus cucullatus collaris* Vieillot, 1819
- Ploceus cucullatus paroptyus* Clancey, 1959
- Ploceus cucullatus nigriceps* (Layard), 1867
- Ploceus cucullatus dilutescens* Clancey, 1956
- Ploceus cucullatus spilonotus* Vigors, 1831

In coastal Kenya Colony, topotypical *P.c.paroptyus* was found breeding in native villages alongside other sociable weavers, namely, *Ploceus bojeri* (Cabanis) and *Ploceus subaureus aureoflavus* Smith. On one occasion it was found consorting in a mixed bird-party with the rare *Ploceus golandi* (Clarke) in the depths of the Sokoke Forest.

The name of the new race is taken from the Latin *paroptyus*, slightly roasted—an allusion to the pronounced rusty golden wash on the sides of the lower throat and breast.

The Systematics of the African Grey Tits, *Parus afer* and *Parus griseiventris*

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The populations of *Parus afer* from Angola to south-western Tanganyika and south to Cape Province are readily separated into three distinct groups.